



THE Trumpet



A publication from the Kansas Office of the State Fire Marshal • January/February 2014

Inside this issue

WINTER SEASONAL TIPS

PLUS...

- Meet the HazMat Program Director
- Burn Awareness Week
- Fire Safety Poster Contest Winners
- Explanation of NFIRS Reporting Fields
- What you need to know about Carbon Monoxide

FROM THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL



AS WE RING IN 2014, the Office of the State Fire Marshal begins a new year of working toward achieving our mission of strengthening our partnerships and providing the highest level of service possible. Although we don't know the outcome of 2014 legislative initiatives, we must, and will, continue to be the driving force for the Kansas fire service community.

What will the new year bring? It's the most asked question I hear around this time. For us in the fire service, we all hope it brings fewer fires, fewer deaths and injuries, and more stories of how people were saved because of prevention education, improved engineering or better enforcement. We each have to do our part to make sure this happens.

The start of a new year brings a fresh sense of renewal and excitement. Let's make resolution to refocus our minds and rededicate our collective efforts in prevention, preparedness and response. I am committed to proactively finding better approaches that help us meet our mission. We will do whatever we can in 2014 to serve you better.

February is also an important month for the Office of the State Fire Marshal. It's budget time, the time when all state agencies receive their budget recommendations. The OSFM staff worked earnestly to craft and submit a solid budget proposal and we are pleased that Governor Brownback's recommendations for our agency recognized our hard work. In the next few months we will work with our budget committee and the legislature to establish a budget for next year that will allow us to achieve our diverse public safety mission.

This is a busy time of year with the legislature in session, but keep in mind we are always willing and able to assist you with your fire and life safety needs. I've always had an open door policy here at the OSFM, and I extend that courtesy to all the groups we serve and regulate, along with all the citizens of the State. If you have any suggestions on how we can serve you better or any other ideas, you are welcome to contact me at doug.jorgensen@ksfm.ks.gov

Best wishes for a successful new year!

Doug Jorgensen
Kansas State Fire Marshal



OUR MISSION

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is dedicated to protecting the lives and property of the people of Kansas from the hazards of fire, explosion and hazardous materials by fostering a safe environment through education, inspection, enforcement, regulation, investigation, hazardous material incident mitigation, data collection, and by acting as a liaison to the Kansas Fire Service.

All of the efforts of the Office are designed to reduce the deaths, injuries and property losses of Kansans.

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THE TRUMPET



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SUBMISSIONS

For information on receiving the State Fire Marshal Trumpet or to submit your meeting notices, training announcements, articles, photos, or other information, please contact [Mai Hester](mailto:mai.hester@ksfm.ks.gov). Photos should be submitted as a .jpg or .tif attachment to an email. All materials are due by the 20th of the month prior to publication.



WILDFIRE AWARENESS WEEK

February 16-22, 2014

For home and business wildfire information, visit
www.disastersafety.org/wildfire

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STAY CONNECTED



Don't Ignore Larger Threat Than Extreme Weather

Urgent Steps Needed to Reduce Fire and Carbon Monoxide Deaths and Injuries in 2014

By Jim Narva
Executive Director of NASFM and former Wyoming State Fire Marshal



MILLIONS OF AMERICANS HAVE SUFFERED through treacherous weather – snow, ice and Arctic-like temperatures – already this winter. And while these extreme conditions have received much deserved attention, U.S. residential fire and carbon monoxide deaths and injuries account for far more fatalities in most years than all natural disasters combined.

From my 25 plus years of experience in the fire industry, I can tell you that no one is immune. Fire can happen anytime, anywhere – and too often ends in tragedy. Since 2003, an average of 3,000 Americans have died each year in house fires; one person dies about every three hours, every day. Additionally, nearly 20,000 people are sent to emergency rooms annually due to carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning – an average of 55 people every day.

It is the deadliest time of the year for home fires and CO poisonings. As families struggle to stay warm, it's important to clear flues and outside exhaust vents of snow and debris, place generators outside if there is a power outage, and keep flammable materials at least three feet away from any heat source. These small, but vital, actions can be life-saving.

Additionally, I urge families to take these five simple steps to help protect your loved ones and home year-round:

1. Replace outdated smoke alarms (any installed 10 or more years ago) because age-related factors like dust, insects and airborne contaminants can impact alarms' efficiency. If you have battery-powered alarms, choose replacement alarms with sealed, long-life lithium batteries. They offer 10-years of protection, are tamper-proof, and never need the battery replaced. Don't forget to install alarms on each floor and inside/outside of sleeping areas.
2. Place UL-listed fire extinguishers within reach on every level of your home; make sure they are within reach in rooms like the kitchen, garage and bedrooms.
3. Install UL-listed carbon monoxide alarms on each floor and near bedrooms.
4. Develop and practice an escape plan with your family; know two ways out of each room.
5. Pledge to keep your family safe and reduce the risk that firefighters face when responding to a home fire at www.alarmpledge.com

Extreme weather conditions should prompt all of us to take stock in our home emergency preparations. But don't ignore the simple steps that can help save lives throughout 2014.



HOT NEWS FROM THE OSFM

Meet the new HazMat Program Director



HANK DUPONT,
HazMat Program Director

Henry "Hank" J. DuPont, Jr.
HazMat Program Director

THE BASICS

Background: HazMat program director Hank DuPont joined the OSFM in January. Hank retired from fire service in January 2012 after serving 32 years. His most recent position was risk management chief for the Overland Park Fire Department where he also served as firefighter, fire inspector, hazardous materials coordinator, lieutenant, captain and special operations chief during his 25-year tenure.

Never one to sit on his laurels, Hank continued his love of teaching after retirement as an adjunct associate professor at Johnson County Community College and contract instructor for Smiths Detection, a world-leading designer and manufacturer of sensors that detect and identify explosives, weapons, chemical agents, biohazards, nuclear material and narcotics.

Education: Associate's in fire protection, Johnson County Community College; Bachelor's in management of public safety, Ottawa University

Family: Currently lives in Overland Park, Kans., but hoping to move closer to Topeka soon. The commute is a killer! Has 3 kids: Joe, 29, Jason 27 and Sarah, 23 and one ADHD terrier named Echo.

First job: "Pulling weeds for the owner of a well-known stereo equipment store in Kansas City. I later became a service technician for him, so you see, you have to start somewhere."

THE JOB

What are your goals for this year? "I just started, so getting comfortable with state operations is my immediate goal. I was in municipal fire service and state HR, planning and budgeting is all new to me."

Biggest current challenge? "It's maintaining a high level of service in an economic downturn. Everybody is crunched by budgets now. I want to make sure our 11 teams have what they need, and the training they need, to respond to hazmat."

Guiding principles? "Always tell the truth and be honest. Whether it's good or bad, get to the heart of the matter. Also, treat others how you like to be treated."

What are you like to work for? "Pretty easy going. Do your job and know it well and we'll get along just fine. People in an organization are the most valuable assets and you want to take care of your people."

TRUE CONFESSIONS

A guilty pleasure? "I don't know what you consider a guilty pleasure. Annually, I go to Vegas to play golf and see Celine Dion. Is that a guilty pleasure?"



#

BY THE NUMBERS



Roughly **1 in every 320 households** per year had a reported home fire from 2007-2011.



25% of the home fire deaths resulted from fires that originated in the bedroom, 24% from fires in the family room, living room or den, and 16% from fires starting in the kitchen.

1/2 of home fire deaths were caused by incidents reported between the hours of 11 p.m. and 7 a.m.



Source: NFPA "Home Structure Fires," 2013

NEW FACES



SARA WOOD,
NFIRS Program Manager

Congratulations to Sara who recently married! She will be going by her married name Sara Wood (previously "Foster") and can be contacted at Sara.Wood@ksfm.ks.gov or 785-296-4294.

Sara joined the Office of the State Fire Marshal in October as the NFIRS Program Manager. Previously, she worked for the Kansas Bureau of Investigation for 8 years in positions ranging from fingerprint identification and FBI liaison for gun purchases to training/auditing law enforcement departments on reporting crime incidents. To complete volunteer work for the National Honor Society, Sara served the Osage County Fire District #4 in Overbrook, Kansas. She currently works part-time for the Eudora Police Department, has a very active daredevil for a 3-year old son and enjoys restoring and trading antiques when the weather isn't cooperative for horses. "I am very excited to be back in the fire service and hope to meet all my departments in Kansas. My goal is to provide the best possible service and make Kansas one of the top NFIRS reporting states."



CHRIS MERCER,
Fire Investigator

Fire Investigator Chris Mercer joined the OSFM in January after transferring from Kansas State Gaming where he served as an agent for 10 years and then promoted to agent supervisor. Utilizing his experience in financial, computer and background investigations, Chris was in charge of the fire-arms division for eight years. In February 2013 Chris completed the Kansas University's 'Emerging Leadership Academy' program.

Chris started his law enforcement career working for the Washburn University Police Department while also working for the Holton Police Department. While employed at Washburn, he received a 'Commendation Award' for his exemplary initiative and attention to duty apprehending a person engaging in criminal activity. He attended Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center in 2002 and was a graduate of the 168th basic police academy. Chris also has four years of corrections experience where he was a Correction Specialist at the Shawnee County Department of Corrections. During that time, he held many positions including field training officer and academy instructor.

Chris graduated from Emporia State University with a bachelor of science degree in sociology and a minor in computer information systems. Chris has a combined sixteen years of corrections, law enforcement and investigative experience.



BURN AWARENESS WEEK

Scald Prevention

Safety Tips

February 2-8, 2014

BURN AWARENESS WEEK, observed the first full week in February, is designated to provide an opportunity for burn, fire and life safety educators to unite in sharing a common burn awareness and prevention message in our communities. Burn Awareness Week, celebrated early in the year, is an excellent opportunity to “kick off” a year full of burn awareness education.

Scald Safety

Scald injuries are painful and require prolonged treatment. They may result in lifelong scarring and even death.

Most burn injuries occur in the person's own home and the vast majority of these injuries could have easily been prevented. Tap water scalds are often more severe than cooking-related scalds. The American Burn Association recommends the following simple safety tips to decrease the risk to yourself and those you love from tap water scalds:

- ♦ Teach children that hot things can burn. Install anti-scald devices on tub faucets and shower heads.
- ♦ Test the water at the faucet. It should be less than 100° Fahrenheit (38° Celsius).
- ♦ Test the bathwater by moving your hand, wrist and forearm through the water. The water should feel warm, not hot, to the touch.

The American Burn Association is an outstanding resource for educational materials on a number of topics, including: Scald Injury Prevention, Electrical Safety, Fire/Burn Safety for Older Adults, Leaving Home Safely, Gasoline Safety and Summer Burn Safety. Each of these campaigns includes an educator's guide and PowerPoint presentations available for download.

- ♦ Place hot liquids and food in the center of a table or toward the back of a counter.
- ♦ Have a “kid-free zone” of at least 3 feet around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.
- ♦ Open microwaved food slowly, away from the face.
- ♦ Never hold a child while you are cooking, drinking a hot liquid or carrying hot foods or liquids.
- ♦ Never heat a baby bottle in a microwave oven. Heat baby bottles in warm water from the faucet.
- ♦ Choose prepackaged soups whose containers have a wide base or, to avoid the possibility of a spill, pour the soup into a traditional bowl after heating.

For more information about preventing scald burns, visit the American Burn Association at www.ameriburn.org



Burn Rx

Immediately cool the burn with water. Pour cool water on burns or soak them for at least three to five minutes (30-40 minutes for chemical injury). Don't use ice as it may stick to the burn and remove skin.

Cover the burn. Apply a soft, clean, dry dressing, bandage or sheet to the burned area. Don't break blisters as this could lead to infection.

Seek medical help as necessary. For adults, if the burn is larger than the size of a quarter, see a doctor.

Never use ointment or butter. Use only cool water on burns. Ointment, butter, cream and salve cause the burn to retain heat, which may cause infection and may hinder medical evaluation.

Run cool water over area of burn



PREVENTION

February is American Heart Month



CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE, including heart attack and stroke, is the number one cause of death in America. The CDC reports that 700,000 people die of heart disease in the United States annually, which is about 29% of all U.S. deaths. The emergency services are not immune to this tragic statistic. Heart disease remains the leading cause of firefighter fatalities, with over half of all on-duty firefighter deaths each year attributed to heart attacks.

The Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program suggests the following steps to keep your heart strong:

- Aim for a healthy weight. Excess weight and obesity cause many preventable deaths.
- Get moving. Make a commitment to be more physically active. Aim for 30 minutes of moderate-intensity activity on most days of the week.
- Eat for heart-health. Choose a diet that is low in saturated fat, trans fat, and cholesterol. Be sure to include whole grains, vegetables, and fruits.
- Know your numbers. Ask your doctor to check your blood pressure, cholesterol level and blood glucose. Work with your doctor to improve any numbers that are not normal.
- Quit smoking. People who smoke are up to six times more likely to suffer a heart attack than non-smokers.

Reduce Your Risk of Cardiac Events

CAUSES

- Exposure to extreme levels of physical exertion.
- Exposure to chemical hazards like carbon monoxide, fine particulate matter and other cardiac toxins.
- Exposure to thermal hazards and emotional stress amplify the risk.

PREVENTION

- Mandatory pre-planned and annual medical examinations for all firefighters including clearance to wear SCBAs.
- Mandatory wellness and fitness programs at all fire departments.
- Mandatory annual physical performance evaluations for all firefighters.



COMMON SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF A HEART ATTACK

Some heart attacks are sudden and intense but most heart attacks start slowly with mild pain or discomfort. Often affected people aren't sure what's wrong and wait too long before getting help. Here are the signs that can mean a heart attack is happening:

- **Chest discomfort.** Most heart attacks involve discomfort in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes or that goes away and comes back. It can feel like uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain.
- **Discomfort in other areas.** Symptoms can include pain or discomfort in one of both arms, the back, jaw or stomach.
- **Shortness of breath.** With or without chest discomfort.
- **Nausea or lightheadedness.** Anxiety, nervousness, or cold sweaty skin.
- **Paleness or pallor, feeling of impending doom, or "something is wrong".**

MINIMIZE THE RISKS

To minimize the risk of cardiac emergencies, firefighters should prepare themselves for strenuous work by doing the following:

- Know their own cardio vascular risk factors and work with health care providers to aggressively lessen those risk factors;
- Obtain medical clearance to engage in structural firefighting;
- Learn the sign and symptoms of a heart attack;
- Prepare physically for the demanding tasks of firefighting by participating in a well-structured fitness program;
- Use incident rehabilitation to hasten physiological recovery from firefighting.

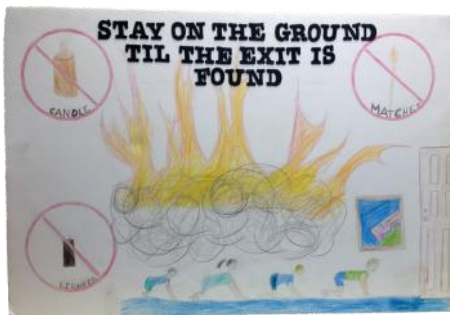
Sources: International Association of Fire Chiefs and Skidmore College Health and Exercise Sciences Report "Sudden Cardiac Event in the Fire Service"

PREVENTION

Fire Safety Poster Contest Winners Named

STUDENTS FROM ACROSS THE STATE recently put their creative talents to work to help spread the message about fire safety by participating in a poster contest. The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM), sponsor of the first annual contest, announced the winners.

The competition coincided with Fire Prevention Week Oct. 6-12 with the theme "Show What You Know About Fire Safety." The poster contest is designed to support the fire safety education efforts of local fire departments.



Submitted by Holly Forge, Leavenworth County



Submitted by Steven Baker, Johnson County

"The students who submitted artwork are incredibly creative," said State Fire Marshal Doug Jorgensen. "They took a very serious topic, fire safety, and presented it in innovative ways."

There were two categories in the statewide competition where posters were first judged by local fire departments. The top local entries were then submitted to the OSFM where a winner in each category was named.

There was a tie in the kindergarten through 3rd grade category; Steven Baker, a second-grade student at Broken Arrow Elementary in Johnson County won first place. Steven is the son of Mike and Karen Baker of Shawnee, Kans. Also winning first place is Holly Forge, a second grader from Pleasant Ridge Elementary in Leavenworth County. Holly is the daughter Mike and Lori Forge of Easton, Kans.

Taking top honors in the 4th through



Submitted by Mady Trower, Leavenworth County

6th grade category was Mady Trower, a fifth-grade student at Genesis Christian Academy in Leavenworth County. Mady is the daughter Travis and Becky Trower of Basehor, Kans.

All poster submissions were displayed in the State Capitol rotunda Jan. 21-24. The three state-wide winners will be invited to meet Governor Sam Brownback and Fire Marshal Doug Jorgensen at a later date and be presented with a certificate. Winning posters are also featured on www.ksfm.ks.gov. ■



Poster submissions on display in the State Capital rotunda.

PREVENTION

Winter Fires

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*Safety Tips for
the Home*

THE HIGH COST OF HOME HEATING fuels and utilities have caused many Americans to search for alternate sources of home heating. The use of wood burning stoves is growing and space heaters are selling rapidly, or coming out of storage. Fireplaces are burning wood and manmade logs.

All these methods of heating may be acceptable. They are, however, a major contributing factor in residential fires. Many of these fires can be prevented. The following fire safety tips can help you maintain a fire safe home this winter.

Kerosene Heaters

- ◆ Be sure that kerosene heaters are legal in your area.
- ◆ Be sure your heater is in good working condition. Inspect exhaust parts for carbon buildup. Be sure the heater has an emergency shut off in case the heater is tipped over.
- ◆ Never use fuel burning appliances without proper room venting. Burning fuel (coal, kerosene, or propane, for example) can produce deadly fumes.
- ◆ Use **ONLY** the fuel recommended by the heater manufacturer. **NEVER introduce a fuel into a unit not designed for that type fuel.**
- ◆ Keep kerosene, or other flammable liquids stored in approved metal containers, in well ventilated storage areas, outside of the house.
- ◆ **NEVER** fill the heater while it is operating or hot. When refueling an oil or kerosene unit, avoid overfilling.
- ◆ Refueling should be done outside of the home (or outdoors). Keep young children away from space heaters—especially when they are wearing night gowns or other loose clothing that can be easily ignited.
- ◆ When using a fuel burning appliance in the bedroom, be sure there is proper ventilation to prevent a buildup of carbon monoxide.



Wood Stoves and Fireplaces

Wood stoves and fireplaces are becoming a very common heat source in homes. Careful attention to safety can minimize their fire hazard.

To use them safely:

- ◆ Be sure the fireplace or stove is installed properly. Wood stoves should have adequate clearance (36") from combustible surfaces and proper floor support and protection.
- ◆ Wood stoves should be of good quality, solid construction and design, and should be laboratory tested.
- ◆ Have the chimney inspected annually and cleaned if necessary, especially if it has not been used for some time.
- ◆ Do not use flammable liquids to start or accelerate any fire.



Fireplaces and Home Fire Safety

Tips to Keep Fires Burning Safely



- ◆ Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace opening, to prevent embers or sparks from jumping out, unwanted material from going in, and help prevent the possibility of burns to occupants.
- ◆ The stove should be burned hot twice a day for 15-30 minutes to reduce the amount of creosote buildup.
- ◆ Don't use excessive amounts of paper to build roaring fires in fireplaces. It is possible to ignite creosote in the chimney by overbuilding the fire.
- ◆ Never burn charcoal indoors. Burning charcoal can give off lethal amounts of carbon monoxide.
- ◆ Keep flammable materials away from your fireplace mantel. A spark from the fireplace could easily ignite these materials.
- ◆ Before you go to sleep, be sure your fireplace fire is out. **NEVER close your damper with hot ashes in the fireplace.** A closed damper will help the fire to heat up again and will force toxic carbon monoxide into the house. If synthetic logs are used, follow the directions on the package. **NEVER** break a synthetic log apart to quicken the fire or use more than one log at a time. They often burn unevenly, releasing higher levels of carbon monoxide.

Furnace Heating

- ◆ It is important that you have your furnace inspected to ensure that it is in good working condition.
- ◆ Be sure all furnace controls and emergency shutoffs are in proper working condition.
- ◆ Leave furnace repairs to qualified specialists. Do not attempt repairs yourself unless you are qualified. Inspect the walls and ceiling near the furnace and along the chimney line. If the wall is hot or discolored, additional pipe insulation or clearance may be required.
- ◆ Check the flue pipe and pipe seams. Are they well supported and free of holes and cracks? Soot along or around seams may be an indicator of a leak.
- ◆ Is the chimney solid, with cracks or loose bricks? All unused flue openings should be sealed with solid masonry.
- ◆ Keep trash and other combustibles away from the heating system. Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace opening, to prevent embers or sparks from jumping out, unwanted material from going in, and help prevent the possibility of burns to occupants.



Other Fire Safety Tips

- ◆ Never discard hot ashes inside or near the home. Place them in a metal container outside and well away from the house.
- ◆ Never use a range or an oven as a supplemental heating device. Not only is it a safety hazard, it can be a source of potentially toxic fumes.
- ◆ If you use an electric heater, be sure not to overload the circuit. Only use extension cords which have the necessary rating to carry an amp load.

TIP: Choose an extension cord the same size or larger than the appliance electrical cord.

- ◆ Avoid using electrical space heaters in bathrooms or other areas where they may come in contact with water.
- ◆ Frozen water pipes? Never try to thaw them with a blow torch or other open flame, otherwise the pipe could conduct the heat and ignite the wall structure inside the wall space. Use hot water or a laboratory tested device such as a hand held dryer for thawing.
- ◆ If windows are used as emergency exits in your home, practice using them in the event fire should strike. Be sure that all the windows open easily. Home escape ladders are recommended.
- ◆ If there is a fire hydrant near your home you can assist the fire department by keeping the hydrant clear of snow so in the event it is needed, it can be located.



PREVENTION

Educational Materials Available



FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION is provided through on-going fire prevention programs as well as public awareness media campaigns to help educate everyone in making informed decisions regarding fire and life safety.

Fire Prevention programs are delivered through on-site presentations, class room instruction, press releases, newsletters and internet.

Please contact the Prevention Division at 785-296-0659 to request an on-site presentation or other education materials, or if you have questions regarding fire and life safety issues.



Home fires occur more in winter than in any other season. As you stay cozy and warm this winter season, **be fire smart!**

Half of all home heating fires occur in the months of



Heating equipment is involved in **1** in every **7** reported **home fires** and **1** in every **6** home fire deaths.

Keep anything that can burn at least **3** feet from any **heat source** like fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators, or space heaters.

Keep portable generators outside, away from windows, and **as far away as possible from your house.**

Install and **test** carbon monoxide alarms at least **once a month.**



Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your chimney and vents **every year.**

Store cooled ashes in a tightly covered metal container, and keep it outside at least **10** feet from your home and any nearby buildings.

Plug only **1** **heat-producing appliance** (such as a space heater) into an electrical outlet at a time.



For more information on how to prevent winter fires, visit www.usfa.fema.gov/winter/ and www.nfpa.org/winter/



INVESTIGATION

A Short Explanation of Yellow and White NFIRS Fields

By Sara Wood

NFIRS REPORTS HAVE MANY FIELDS and usually they're white or yellow. Yellow fields are the minimally required fields. Just because a field is white doesn't mean you should skip it. Many times white fields are truly necessary to the report and required for certain circumstances.

So why aren't they yellow? Because the fire service wears a lot of hats, honestly. NFIRS is designed to try to be a good catalogue for all those hats, but you don't wear every hat at the same time. Property Loss and Contents Loss are valuable fields for a fire call, but an EMS call has nothing to do with Property Loss. That's why fields like Property and Contents Loss are white. They can't be yellow because you're not always wearing that hat. You're not always working a fire with Property Loss. Yellow fields are the things you are going to have/do

no matter the type of call you get. You're always going to be in a zip code, so it's yellow. You're not always going to be in an apartment, so it's white. If you are in an apartment make every effort to report that on the incident. Yellow fields are great, but they're just the start.

If the field pertains to the type of call you're working then make every attempt to complete that field. Detector Effectiveness was only reported on 20% of the structure fires, yet those numbers help the public understand how important installation and regular maintenance of smoke detectors can be to their safety. Equipment Involved in Ignition was only provided on 16% of fires yet that information can be significant for product recalls. NFIRS encompasses a great deal of statistics which can directly impact public safety but the system is only as good as

what departments enter.

If you find yourself missing a lot of information when you sit down to write the report your department may benefit from utilizing the NFIRS Field Notes form. The field notes form is a front/back sheet that can be stocked in the apparatus on a clipboard and quickly available on-scene. This tool can help get the information you need for the report and creates less headaches later on, especially if the NFIRS report isn't written right after the call. If you would like a copy of the field notes form please contact me at Sara.Wood@ksfm.ks.gov or by phone at 785-296-4294.

As always, I am grateful that you participate in the NFIRS Program and thank you for all the hard work that you do.

Portable Heater Fire Safety

An estimated 900 portable heater fires in homes are reported to U.S. fire departments each year and cause an estimated 70 deaths, 150 injuries and \$53 million in property loss.

Only 2 percent of heating fires in homes involved portable heaters; however, portable heaters were involved in 45 percent of all fatal heating fires in homes.



INVESTIGATION

Help for Mutual Aid

By Sara Wood

MANY DEPARTMENTS OFFER AID or have automatic mutual aid agreements with surrounding departments. This is great for Fire Service, but can bring confusion when reporting to NFIRS. Aiding departments and departments receiving aid will report very differently for the same run.

In order to be considered as Mutual Aid, two criteria have to be met:

1. Your department must be assisting another fire department, and
2. Both fire departments must be on scene.

If you are assisting police, ambulance services, etc., do not report Mutual Aid Given on the Basic Module in Block D Aid Given or Received. If you are canceled en route (Incident type 611-Dispatched and Canceled en route) and do not make the scene with the other fire department, do not report Mutual Aid Given in Block D, either.

Aiding Departments report:

1. The Basic Module
2. If nobody from your department is injured or worse, stop at G1-Resources
3. If someone from your department is injured or worse complete block H1-Casualties on Basic and complete the Fire Service Casualty Module. Do not enter any Civilian Casualty information!
4. Ask the other department for their FDID and Incident Number.
5. Enter FDID and incident number under Block D-Aid Given or Received.
6. Optional but recommended-complete Apparatus/Resources module

Aiding departments, do not complete:

- Fire Module
- Structure Fire Module
- Wildland Fire Module
- Arson Module
- EMS Module
- Civilian Casualty Module

The fire department receiving the aid will complete an entire NFIRS Report with any applicable modules (Fire, Structure Fire, Civilian Casualty, etc.). The department receiving aid should also ask for the FDID and the Incident Number from the aiding department. It is important that both departments get this information and report it. This allows the NFIRS database to link both reports together in the system and provide an accurate number of total resources, time spent on the call, and all around makes a more complete program. An FDID listing is coming soon to the ksfm.ks.gov website but that will not help with Incident Numbers.





Carbon Monoxide: The Invisible Winter Hazard

WHILE CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING can occur any time of the year, it is more prevalent in winter because carbon monoxide gas can come from fuel-burning sources such as fireplaces, wood stoves, space heaters and gas-fueled water heaters, ovens, and dryers. Exhaust from a vehicle left running in your garage also can be dangerous, particularly if the garage doors are closed. Blocked chimneys can push fumes indoors. Well - insulated new homes with tight seals and inadequate fresh air intake also can cause dangerous levels of carbon monoxide (CO) to build up in the home.

Every year, nearly 500 people die in the U. S. from accidental CO poisoning. According to the CDC, children younger than 5 years old have the highest estimated rate of CO-related visits to the emergency room each year among all age groups in the United States. Nationally, more than 25 children die from CO poisoning every year. In Kansas, over 500 people have been hospitalized and 4 people have died from CO poisoning over the past 10 years.

“Carbon Monoxide is a silent killer that often strikes us where we feel most secure, in our homes,” says Tom Langer, Director of the Bureau of Environmental Health at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). “Faulty heating systems, water heaters, stoves and our cars are leading sources of combustion gases that can quickly overwhelm us and do us great harm.”

Important Safety Tip to Protect from CO Poisoning:

- * Prevent CO buildup in the first place - make sure heating appliances are in good working order and used only in well-ventilated areas.
- * Don't run a car engine in the garage, even with the garage doors open. If you need to warm up your

vehicle, move it outside first.

- * Install a CO alarm outside every sleeping area, on every level of your home and at least 15 feet away from every fuel-burning appliance.
- * When you check your smoke alarm batteries each month, check the batteries on your CO alarms at the same time – and replace the batteries twice a year.
- * Never use an oven to heat your home.
- * Portable generators must be used outside for proper ventilation. They cannot be used indoors or inside of a garage.
- * Have all gas, oil or coal burning appliances inspected by a technician every year to ensure they're working correctly and are properly ventilated.

If more than one person in the home suddenly feels ill for no apparent reason, or if a CO alarm goes off, get everyone outside immediately and call 911 from a pre-arranged meeting place.

“CO alarms are widely available at hardware and retail stores for about \$20,” says Cherie Sage, Safe Kids Kansas. “Because the symptoms of CO poisoning are similar to that of the flu, it's important to have early detection of this invisible danger in the home before it's too late.”

CO poisoning is entirely preventable. You can protect yourself and your family by acting wisely in case of a power outage and learning the symptoms of CO poisoning. For more information about CO poisoning, visit http://www.kdheks.gov/beh/carbon_monoxide.htm and www.safekids.org, or call the Poison Control Hotline at (800) 222-1222.

Source: www.live-safe.org/email/docs/LiveFireSafe-DecNewsletter-112112.pdf



Support the Fallen Firefighter Memorial



In 2001, legislation was signed that authorized the construction of a memorial to be built on the Capitol grounds in Topeka to honor Kansas firefighters who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

A scaled replica can be viewed at the Office of the State Fire Marshal. The OSFM also transports the replica to fire service events across the state.

If you would like to contribute towards the construction of the Kansas Fallen Firefighters Memorial, please send your tax deductible donation to:

Firefighters Memorial Fund
Attn: Eldred Wenger
Kansas Department of Administration, DFM
900 SW Jackson St., Room 600
Topeka, KS 66612